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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Greece

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SUBJECT New Markesinis Party

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The formation of the important New Markesinis Party by Senator Spyros Markesinis was done with the "blessing" of King George and under the guidance of Pipirmelis, one of the King's advisers. The party now controls 25 votes in Parliament, and there is a strong possibility that the followers of Phillip Dragounis and Stephan Stephanopoulos will merge with the new party.
2. Having proclaimed its disapproval of the policies of the "Popular Party", the party now stands as an opposition force which can act as an effective lever in the political arena. The object of its creation was and is to preserve a right-wing political group.
3. The principal importance of the party at this time is that it can claim that the Liberal Party of Themistocles Sophoulis is not the only opposition in Parliament. Since seven of the eight parties heretofore represented in Parliament participated in the present coalition government, Sophoulis could normally claim—in the event of the collapse of the present government—that he alone was entitled to form a new government. But now, regardless of numerical representation, the existence of the New Markesinis Party constitutes a wedge for the preservation of right-wing interests, particularly those sponsoring Royal interests.
4. One of the principal followers of Markesinis is Senator Andrew Stratos who is closely related to George Stratos, prominent in Greek cabinet circles.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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